United Nations S/PRST/2015/17

Security Council

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20 October 2015

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7537th meeting of the Security Council, held on 20 October 2015, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Central African Republic", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern about the recent upsurge of violence and instability in the Central African Republic (CAR), which aimed at destabilising the country and jeopardising the transition process. The Security Council strongly condemns such violence, including all attacks against civilians, intercommunal violence, targeted violence against women and children, lootings of humanitarian premises and attacks against United Nations peacekeepers.

"The Security Council emphasises that some of these attacks may constitute war crimes and that those responsible for all abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law must be held accountable.

"The Security Council also emphasises that those undermining the peace, stability or security of the CAR, threatening or impeding the political transition process, targeting of civilians and attacking peacekeepers may meet criteria for designation under sanctions as stated in UNSCR 2196 (2015).

"The Security Council reiterates its strong condemnation of all violations of applicable international law and demands that all parties concerned strictly comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable, as well as implement relevant decisions of the Security Council.

"The Security Council reiterates its support for the Transitional Authorities, under the leadership of Catherine Samba-Panza as the Transitional Head of State, and calls on all stakeholders in the CAR to commit to peace and reconciliation through the implementation of the agreements adopted at the Bangui Forum in May 2015.

"The Security Council reiterates its decision to apply the asset freeze and travel ban measures contained in paragraphs 4 and 7 of resolution 2196 (2015), to individuals and entities engaging in or providing support for acts that undermine the peace, stability or security of the CAR, consistent with paragraph 11 and 12 of resolution 2196 (2015). The Security Council also

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reiterates its intention to further expand the list of individuals and entities maintained by the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) by adding those responsible for the recent outbreak of violence, particularly those who have provided support to, acted for or on behalf of, or at the direction of, an individual or an entity already sanctioned by the Committee.

"The Security Council reiterates that those responsible for the recent violence, both perpetrators and those who otherwise participate, should be held accountable and reiterates that some of those recent acts of violence may amount to crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), to which CAR is State Party. The Security Council welcomes in this regard the statement of the Prosecutor of the ICC of 30 September 2015 regarding the recent upsurge of violence in the CAR, and in which the Prosecutor noted that a year ago, following a referral by the Central African Republic authorities, the Prosecutor opened an investigation into crimes committed in the country since 1 August 2012.

"The Security Council calls on the Transitional Authorities to launch, with the technical assistance of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the CAR (MINUSCA), investigations to identify those responsible and bring them to justice.

"The Security Council underlines the possible role that the domestic Special Criminal Court might play in this regard, and stresses the urgency in the Court taking up its initial functions, and emphasizes the need for MINUSCA to provide technical assistance and capacity building for the CAR Authorities in line with paragraph 32(g) of its mandate pursuant to resolution 2217 (2015).

"The Security Council expresses concern about the recurring incidents of prisoners escaping from custody in the CAR, which negatively impacts the fight against impunity and the efforts to stabilise the country, calls upon the Transitional Authorities to bolster their efforts to investigate and prosecute and to detain prisoners in a safe, secure and humane manner, with MINUSCA's support as appropriate in accordance with its mandate. It also expresses its concerns about the reported participation of some elements of the Forces armées centrafricaines (FACA) in the recent incidents in Bangui, underlining the need for training, and the importance of progress in reforming the security sector, including on vetting and on accountability processes in the defense and security forces, to be accomplished before the FACA can be returned to operational duties.

"The Security Council demands that all those who seek to weaken the transitional government from within and outside the CAR, including militias and non-state armed groups, cease all forms of violence and destabilizing activities immediately, lay down their arms, and fully implement the agreement for Cessation of Hostilities and Violence signed on 23 July 2014 in Brazzaville, Congo as well as the agreement on principles of DDR and SSR adopted at the Bangui Forum of May 2015.

"The Security Council takes note of the significant progress achieved in the voters registration process in the CAR, with an unprecedented number of

citizens registered to date; calls for this process to be completed swiftly, and emphasizes the importance of the registration of all CAR populations, including refugees in neighbouring States.

"The Security Council reiterates the critical importance and urgency of holding the constitutional referendum and first rounds of presidential and legislative elections by the end of 2015, in a free, fair, transparent manner, which is inclusive of all the components of the CAR society, and in accordance with the Transitional Constitutional Charter. In this regard, the Security Council underlines that the provisions of the Transitional Constitutional Charter should be strictly and fully implemented, and calls on the Transitional Authorities, including the National Elections Authority (ANE) and the National Transitional Council, to adopt and publish, without any further delay, a revised calendar for the holding of elections as soon as possible. The Security Council also calls upon the ANE to continue the preparations for the referendum and the elections, without delay.

"The Security Council underscores the importance of making all appropriate efforts to ensure peace and reconciliation in the Central African Republic, in this regard commends the joint action of religious leaders in the CAR in pursuing intercommunal peace, and calls upon the CAR authorities to take all necessary steps to create conditions for lasting reconciliation, including by protecting civilians from any religious or ethnic-based violence.

"The Security Council emphasises that the continued role of the region, including the International Mediator, the Chair of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the countries of the sub-region, as well as the African Union, and the United Nations as participants in the mediation, is critical for the promotion of lasting peace and stability in the CAR. The Security Council encourages countries in the region to further use their leverage and regional meetings to encourage progress on the transition and towards the elections and to prevent spoilers, within the CAR and outside, from attempting to disrupt these processes.

"The Security Council calls upon troop and police contributing countries to MINUSCA to expedite the upgrading of their capabilities, and urges other member states to provide the necessary support to enable them to reach United Nations standards without any further delay.

"The Security Council further calls upon the international community to continue to support the CAR by addressing critical priorities articulated by Central Africans during the Bangui Forum for the next 12-18 months, which include disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation (DDRR), security sector reform, justice and reconciliation, including the establishment of the domestic Special Criminal Court, strengthening the capacity of local courts and the establishment of the Justice, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the restoration and extension of State authority in support of democratic and economic governance, and economic and social development. The Security Council welcomes the high-level event held on the margins of the General Assembly, and encourages Member-States who have pledged support for these programmes to disburse funds quickly and to garner additional support in priority areas that remain underfunded.

"The Security Council reiterates its support for MINUSCA to assist, as mandated by the Security Council in resolution 2217 (2015) the Transitional Authorities and the people of the Central African Republic in their efforts to bring lasting peace and stability to their country, protect civilians, including those targeted on ethnic or religious grounds, and restore State authority over the entire territory.

"The Security Council expresses concern with reports that two sanctioned individuals are travelling in the region, and underlines its observation that individuals who knowingly facilitate the travel of a listed individual in violation of the travel ban may be determined by the Committee to have met the designation criteria for sanctions."

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7546th meeting of the Security Council, held on 28 October 2015, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Burundi", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern about the growing insecurity and the continued rise in violence in Burundi, as well as the persisting political impasse in the country, marked by a lack of dialogue among Burundian stakeholders.

"The Security Council takes note of the meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) of 17 October 2015 on the situation in Burundi and the statement, including its proposed next steps, adopted on that occasion.

"The Security Council is deeply concerned by the increased cases of human rights violations and abuses, including those involving extra-judicial killings, acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman and/or degrading treatment, arbitrary arrests and illegal detentions. The Security Council expresses also its deep concerns on the prevalence of impunity, on the daily assassinations, on the restrictions on enjoyment of the freedom of expression, including for members of the press, and on the continued worsening of the humanitarian situation, marked by the more than 200,000 Burundian citizens seeking refuge in neighboring countries. The Security Council commends efforts by those in the region to respond to the humanitarian crisis and provide necessary resources to Burundian refugees.

"The Security Council strongly condemns all violations and abuses of human rights and acts of unlawful violence committed in Burundi both by security forces and by militias and other illegal armed groups, and expresses its determination to seek accountability for perpetrators of such acts. The Security Council welcomes the decision of the African Union to launch an in-depth investigation on the violations and abuses of human rights against individuals in Burundi.

"The Security Council recalls the importance of respecting the Constitution of Burundi as well as the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement of August 2000 and stresses that the situation prevailing in Burundi has the potential to seriously undermine the significant gains achieved through the Arusha Agreement, with devastating consequences for Burundi and the region as a whole.

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"The Security Council urges all those involved to reject armed rebellion to resolve the current crisis and once again, urgently appeals to the Burundian stakeholders to engage in dialogue and to spare their country and its people further suffering. The Security Council reiterates its conviction that genuine and inclusive dialogue, based on respect for the Constitution and Arusha Agreement, would best enable the Burundian stakeholders to find a consensual solution to the crisis facing their country, preserve peace and consolidate democracy and the rule of law. The Security Council notes of the establishment of the National Commission for the inter-Burundian Dialogue.

"The Security Council reemphasizes the importance of the mediation efforts led by President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda on behalf of the East African Community (EAC) and as endorsed by the African Union, underlines the importance of the urgent resumption of the mediation process, and urges the Burundian Government and other concerned stakeholders to extend full cooperation to the Mediator. The Security Council stresses the importance of convening an inter-Burundian dialogue in coordination with the government of Burundi and all concerned and peaceful stakeholders, both who are in Burundi and those outside the country, in order to find a consensual and nationally owned solution to the current crisis.

"The Security Council welcomes the decision by the AU PSC to increase the number of AU human rights observers and military experts deployed by the African Union in Burundi and reiterates its call to the Burundian Government and others stakeholders to provide full cooperation to facilitate their effective and immediate deployment and implementation of their mandate. The Security Council notes the decision of the African Union to impose targeted sanctions, including travel ban and asset freeze, against all the Burundian stakeholders whose actions and statements contribute to the perpetuation of violence and impede the search for a solution, and expresses its intention to follow closely and respond to any actions that threaten the peace, security and stability of Burundi."

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Security Council

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30 October 2015

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7547th meeting of the Security Council, held on 30 October 2015, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the continued participation by the wider membership in the open debate held on 20 October 2015 under the agenda item 'Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)'.

"The Security Council expresses its intent to continue to hold an annual open debate on its working methods and affirms its commitment to continue to keep its working methods under consideration in its regular work, with a view to ensuring their effective and consistent implementation.

"The Security Council recalls its commitment to making more effective use, as appropriate, of open meetings, and to this end expresses its commitment to continue to take steps to improve the focus and interactivity of its open debates. In this regard, the Security Council welcomes joint statements by both Security Council members and other Member States.

"The Security Council underscores the importance of increased coordination, cooperation and interaction among the principal organs of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat, as well as with other relevant bodies including the Peacebuilding Commission, and regional organisations, including the African Union, and reaffirms that the relationship between the principal organs of the United Nations is mutually reinforcing and complementary, in accordance with and with full respect for their respective functions, authority, powers and competencies as enshrined in the Charter. In this regard, the Security Council takes note of the adoption, on 11 September 2015, by the General Assembly, of resolution 69/321 and the continued cooperation between the President of the Security Council and the President of the General Assembly.

"The Security Council appreciates the work undertaken by the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, and requests the Informal Working Group to continue reviewing and updating relevant Notes by the President of the Security Council, in particular Note S/2010/507 of 26 July 2010, including with a focus on implementation.

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"The Security Council takes note of the efforts of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions to enhance the transparency of its activities, including by the Chair providing regular briefings to interested Member States, in consultation with its members, and encourages the Working Group to make further progress in this regard.

"The Security Council further appreciates the efforts on working methods undertaken by its other subsidiary bodies aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and transparency of their activities, and encourages them, as appropriate, to make further progress."

United Nations S/PRST/2015/20

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 November 2015

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7552nd meeting of the Security Council, held on 9 November 2015, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the appointment of Maman S. Sidikou as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), and assures him of its full support. The Security Council commends his predecessor Martin Kobler for his engagement and important contribution for the past two years in supporting the implementation of the MONUSCO mandate.

"The Security Council notes some progress was made with respect to the security situation in eastern DRC over the last fourteen years but remains deeply concerned over the ongoing security and humanitarian crisis due to ongoing destabilizing activity of foreign and domestic armed groups. The Security Council stresses once again the utmost importance of neutralizing, once and for all, armed groups in the DRC, in particular the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) as well as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the Front for Patriotic Resistance of Ituri (FRPI) and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and reiterates the importance of the extension of state authority over territory vacated by armed groups and of the effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants.

"The Security Council acknowledges the importance of joint operations and notes with concern that joint offensive operations between FARDC and the Intervention Brigade in cooperation with the whole of MONUSCO have yet to resume. The Security Council calls for the immediate resumption of full cooperation in order to jointly neutralize armed groups in the DRC, in particular the FDLR, as mandated by its resolution 2211.

"The Security Council reiterates its concern at the slow pace of implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework Agreement for DRC and the Region signed in Addis Ababa in February 2013, and of the Nairobi Declarations of December 2013, and calls on all parties, including the ex-M23 leadership, to fully cooperate to expedite the repatriation and reintegration of remaining ex-M23 combatants in Uganda and Rwanda and to

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participate in the follow-up mechanisms for the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations.

"The Security Council remains deeply concerned by persistent high levels of violence and violations and abuses of human rights and international law, especially in eastern DRC. The Security Council condemns in particular such violations and abuses involving targeted attacks against civilians, widespread sexual and gender-based violence, systematic recruitment and use of children by armed groups, forced displacement of significant numbers of civilians, extrajudicial executions and arbitrary arrests. The Security Council acknowledges the progress made by the Government of the DRC in the implementation of the action plans to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children as well as sexual violence by the FARDC, and calls on the Government to continue its efforts, with the support of MONUSCO, towards their full implementation, including combating impunity for sexual violence and violations against children. The Security Council urges the Government of the DRC to continue its efforts to bring to justice and hold accountable those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights, as applicable, in particular those that may amount to genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"The Security Council calls on the Government of the DRC and its national partners to ensure the successful and timely holding of elections, in particular presidential and legislative elections by November 2016, in accordance with the Constitution, while respecting the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. The Security Council reiterates its concern over the increasing political tensions in the DRC and urges the Government as well as all relevant parties to ensure an environment conducive to a free, fair, credible, inclusive, transparent, peaceful and timely electoral process, in accordance with the Congolese Constitution, which will contribute to the long-term stability and development of the DRC.

"The Security Council takes note with encouragement of the Government of the DRC's stated commitment to engage fully in the strategic dialogue with MONUSCO consistent with resolution 2211 (2015) and looks forward to the quick resumption of talks. The Security Council reiterates its full support to MONUSCO and calls on all parties to cooperate fully with the mission and to remain committed to the full and objective implementation of the mission's mandate. The Security Council expresses its full support to incoming SRSG Sidikou to that end."